

Elevate Schools Detailed Information

Overview

Utah Code Section 53E-5-301 and Utah Code Section 53E-5-302.1 direct the USBE to designate a school as an Elevate school in every year that the state board does not designate a Springboard school.

What is an Elevate School?

An Elevate school" means a district school or charter school that: (a) is not a Title I school; (b) is implementing targeted support and improvement activities under 20 U.S.C. Sec. 6311; and (c) has applied and been designated by the state board as an elevate school as described in Utah Code Section 53E-5-302.1

How are Elevate schools identified?

USBE uses the following process to identify Elevate Schools:

1. Non-Title I schools that are designated as TSI or ATSI are invited to apply to be an Elevate School.
2. The USBE school improvement team provides a voluntary application packet for all eligible schools.
3. Interested non-Title I schools submit an application.
4. The USBE school improvement team reviews all application submissions.
5. The USBE school improvement team recommends no less than six schools to the Utah State Board of Education.
6. The Utah State Board of Education approves the final designation for Elevate schools.

If you meet the requirements to be an Elevate School, do you have to participate?

- No. Participation is voluntary. Schools that meet the criteria to be an Elevate school may apply to participate and receive additional support from the USBE.

How many schools will be Elevate Schools?

- At least six (6) schools ([Utah Code Section 53E-5-302.1](#))

How do schools that meet the criteria apply to become Elevate?

- Notification is sent to all LEAs and eligible schools that the application window is open. Additionally, application materials are posted on the USBE School Improvement website.

What are the benefits of participating in the Elevate school process?

- Elevate schools receive additional support from the USBE including but not limited to:
 1. A thorough School Improvement Plan based on Needs Assessment and Root Cause Analysis
 2. Opportunity and prioritization to participate in the School Leadership Development Program (SLDP)
 3. An approved USBE Continuous improvement expert (CIE)
 4. Ongoing implementation and project management support
 5. Dedicated Support from the USBE School Improvement Team

Do Elevate schools receive financial assistance?

- Yes. Each Elevate school receives a one-time allocation of \$375,000.00 (USBE Administrative Rule R277.920).

Are there restrictions on the use of Elevate funding?

- Yes. Per Utah Code 53E-5-303 and 53E-5-304 and USBE Administrative Rule R277-920, a portion of the funding shall be used to contract with a continuous improvement expert (CIE) and shall be used ONLY for interventions identified in the school improvement plan.

Are there exit criteria for Elevate Schools?

An Elevate school may exit after successful completion of:

1. Four years participating in the implementation of a continuous improvement cycle,
2. Working with the elevate school's continuous improvement expert; and
3. Beginning with the 2026-2027 Elevate cohort, the exit criteria in place for targeted support and improvement or additional targeted support and improvement for student groups under the state's ESSA plan (USBE R277-920-13)

In addition to meeting the exit criteria, are there additional expectations or requirements for Elevate schools?

- Yes. Elevate schools are required to:
 - Complete a needs assessment that thoroughly analyzes the root causes of the school's previous performance of their TSI/ATSI student groups ([Utah Code Section 53E-5-302.1](#))
 - Establish a School Improvement Committee (SIC) per [Utah Code Section 53E-5-303](#) and [53E-5-304](#) for SIC composition
 - Solicit proposals for a Continuous Improvement Expert
 - Submit CIE proposal to the USBE for review and approval [Utah Code Section 53E-5-303](#) and [53E-5-304](#)
 - Contract with a Continuous Improvement Expert [Utah Code Section 53E-5-303](#) and [53E-5-304](#)
 - Develop a school improvement plan [Utah Code Section 53E-5-303](#) and [53E-5-304](#)

Are there requirements for a local board of an Elevate school?

- Yes. The local board of an Elevate school shall.
 - Prioritize school district funding and resources to the Elevate school ([Utah Code Section 53E-5-303](#) and [53E-5-304](#))
 - Grant the Elevate school "streamlined" authority over staff, schedule, policies, budget, and academic programs to implement the school improvement plan ([Utah Code Section 53E-5-303](#) and [53E-5-304](#))
 - Assist the Continuous Improvement Expert and the school with addressing the root causes of TSI/ATSI student group performance and the implementation of the school improvement plan [Utah Code Section 53E-5-303](#) and [53E-5-304](#)
 - Approve the Elevate school's improvement plan [Utah Code Section 53E-5-303](#) and [53E-5-304](#)

What is the role, responsibilities, and requirements of the Continuous Improvement Expert (CIE)

The CIE will contract with the Elevate' s LEA to:

- develop and implement, in partnership with the school improvement committee, a school improvement plan that meets the criteria described in [Utah Code Section 53E-5-303](#) and [53E-5-304](#)
- monitor the effectiveness of a school improvement plan through reliable means of evaluation, including on-site visits, observations, surveys, analysis of student achievement data, and interviews; [Utah Code Section 53E-5-303](#) and [53E-5-304](#)
- provide ongoing implementation support and project management for a school improvement plan; [Utah Code Section 53E-5-303](#) and [53E-5-304](#)
- provide high-quality professional learning personalized for school staff that is designed to build:
 - the leadership capacity of the school principal; [Utah Code Section 53E-5-303](#) and [53E-5-304](#)
 - the instructional capacity of school staff; [Utah Code Section 53E-5-303](#) and [53E-5-304](#)
 - educators' capacity with data-driven strategies by providing actionable, embedded data practices; [Utah Code Section 53E-5-303](#) and [53E-5-304](#)and
- leverage support from community partners to coordinate an efficient delivery of supports to students inside and outside the classroom; [Utah Code Section 53E-5-303](#) and [53E-5-304](#)

What is required in the School Improvement Plan?

Per [Utah Code Section 53E-5-303](#) and [53E-5-304](#), the School Improvement Plans must include:

- How the school/charter will address root causes of low performance identified in the needs assessment
- Include recommendations in the following areas that may be necessary to implement the improvement plan:
 - School/Charter personnel
 - Culture
 - Curriculum
 - Assessments
 - Instructional practices
 - Governance
 - Leadership
 - Finances
 - Policies
 - Other areas necessary to implement the improvement plan
- Measurable student achievement goals, objectives, and benchmarks to measure progress.
- Professional development plan that identifies strategies to address problems with instructional practice
- Detailed budget specifying how the school improvement plan will be funded including
- A plan to assess and monitor progress.
- A plan to communicate and report data on progress to stakeholders.
- A timeline for implementation

Who is required to be on the School Improvement Committee?

- For School districts, the required school improvement committee members include but are not limited to [Utah Code Section 53E-5-303](#):
 - One (1) local school board member representing the voting district where the school is located.
 - The school principal.
 - Three (3) parents of students appointed by the chair of the school community council.
 - One (1) teacher at the school appointed by the principal.
 - One (1) teacher at the school appointed by the school district superintendent: and
 - One (1) school district administrator.
- For Charters, the required school improvement committee members include but are not limited to and [Utah Code Section 53E-5-304](#):
 - One (1) member of the charter school governing board, appointed by the chair of the charter school governing board.
 - The school principal.
 - Three (3) parents of students enrolled in the school appointed by the chair of the charter school governing board: and
 - Two (2) teachers at the school, appointed by the school principal.

Are there required reporting timelines?

- Yes. On or before June 1 of the initial remedial year, the school improvement committee must submit the school improvement plan to the local school board for approval [Utah Code Section 53E-5-303](#) and [53E-5-304](#)
- On or before July 1, of the initial remedial year, the local school board will submit to USBE their Elevate school improvement plan for review and approval [Utah Code Section 53E-5-303](#) and [53E-5-304](#)
- Annually, a school board or designee shall report to USBE progress towards the goals, benchmarks, and timetable in the school improvement plan [Utah Code Section 53E-5-303](#) and [53E-5-304](#)

What is the cycle for identification of Elevate schools and voluntary participation?

In years when there are no Springboard schools identified, schools that meet the criteria for Elevate school determination may apply to participate. Springboard schools are determined every four (4) years commencing in Therefore, the cycle for Elevate school destination is:

2026-2027 (Elevate)	2030-2031 (Elevate)
2027-2028 (Elevate)	2031-2032 (Elevate)
2028-2029 (Elevate)	2032-2033 (Elevate)
2029-2030 (Springboard – no Elevate)	2034-2035 (Springboard – no Elevate)

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